Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 /097 W

-----000542 151717Z /47

P R 151700Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1685
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TAGS: PBOR, FR, EG, XI, MO, AG, MR

SUBJECT: NORTH AFRICA: EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT IN

FRANCE

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 2658

1. EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT HUSNI MUBAREK MADE A
FLYING TRIP TO PARIS NOV. 14 TO INFORM THE GOF OF
THE RESULTS OF HIS NORTH AFRICAN MEDIATION TOUR BUT
APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE POSITIVE TO REPORT, ACCORDING
TO EGYPTIAN SOURCES HERE. HE ARRIVED AT PARIS' ORLY
AIRPORT EARLY MONDAY EVENING (NOV. 14), MET WITH
FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD IN AN AIRPORT
LOUNGE AND DEPARTED FOR EGYPT AFTER A STAY OF LESS
THAN TWO HOURS. SPEAKING WITH NEWSMEN AFTER HIS
CONVERSATION WITH GUIRINGAUD, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING
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THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISITS TO ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WAS TO COUNSEL MODERATION ON THE PARTIES AND THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL OF A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FRENCH HOSTAGES OF THE POLISARIO, MUBAREK SAID THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE

HAD PROMISED TO INTERVENE WITH THE POLISARIO TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE AFFAIR. HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT BOUMEDIENE WOULD DO HIS BEST AND THAT HE WAS GREATLY COUNTING ON HIS ACTION.

3. THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR WHO WAS AT THE AIRPORT (BUT WHO PROBABLY DID NOT SIT IN ON THE GUIRINGAUD MEETING) TOLD US SUBSEQUENTLY THAT MUBAREK'S TOUR MAY HAVE SERVED TO EASE TENSIONS TEMPORARILY BUT PROBABLY DID NOTHING TOWARDS FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE SAHARA ISSUE. MUBAREK HAD FOUND BOUMEDIENE VERY RIGID IN HIS POSITIONS AND NOT INCLINED TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS OF A NATURE LIKELY TO LEAD TO A SETTLEMENT.

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